

ELEMENT RANKING

GLOBAL RANKING

The *global rank* (G-rank) is a reflection of the overall condition of an element throughout its global range.

SPECIES OR NATURAL COMMUNITY LEVEL

- G1** = Less than 6 viable element occurrences (EOs) OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 2,000 acres.
G2 = 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres.
G3 = 21-100 EOs OR 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres.
G4 = Apparently secure; this rank is clearly lower than G3 but factors exist to cause some concern; i.e., there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat.
G5 = Population or stand demonstrably secure to ineradicable due to being commonly found in the world.

SUBSPECIES LEVEL

Subspecies receive a **T-rank** attached to the G-rank. With the subspecies, the G-rank reflects the condition of the entire species, whereas the T-rank reflects the global situation of just the subspecies or variety.

For example: *Chorizanthe robusta* var. *hartwegii*. This plant is ranked G2T1. The G-rank refers to the whole species range i.e., *Chorizanthe robusta*. The T-rank refers only to the global condition of var. *hartwegii*.

STATE RANKING

The *state rank* is assigned much the same way as the global rank, except state ranks in California often also contain a threat designation attached to the S-rank.

- S1** = Less than 6 EOs OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 2,000 acres
S1.1 = very threatened
S1.2 = threatened
S1.3 = no current threats known
S2 = 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres
S2.1 = very threatened
S2.2 = threatened
S2.3 = no current threats known
S3 = 21-100 EOs or 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres
S3.1 = very threatened
S3.2 = threatened
S3.3 = no current threats known
S4 - Apparently secure within California; this rank is clearly lower than S3 but factors exist to cause some concern; i.e. there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat. NO THREAT RANK.
S5 - Demonstrably secure to ineradicable in California. NO THREAT RANK.
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Notes:

- Other considerations used when ranking a species or natural community include the pattern of distribution of the element on the landscape, fragmentation of the population/stands, and historical extent as compared to its modern range. It is important to take a bird's eye or aerial view when ranking sensitive elements rather than simply counting EOs.

- Uncertainty about the rank of an element is expressed in two major ways:

By expressing the rank as a range of values:
eg., S2S3 means the rank is somewhere between S2 and S3.

By adding a ? to the rank: eg., S2? This represents more certainty than S2S3, but less than S2.

3. Other symbols

- GH All sites are historical; the element has not been seen for at least 20 years, but suitable habitat still exists (SH = All California sites are historical).
GX All sites are **extirpated**; this element is extinct in the wild (SX = All California sites are extirpated).
GXC Extinct in the wild; exists in cultivation.
G1Q The element is very rare, but there is a taxonomic question associated with it.

